

# The History of Africa

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## Introduction

The history chapter in the previous edition of *Studying Africa* included books published up to 2004. Since then, the literature on the history of Africa has grown considerably in both scope and quality, and many new themes have appeared. This is the starting point for the chapter that follows, which is devoted to books on the history of Africa published between 2004 and the middle of 2010.

The following selection aims at broadening the perspective by giving more prominence to books which explore Africa in global history; that is, the historical relations of the continent around the Mediterranean, the Indian Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean, in addition to providing examples of the rapidly growing body of literature on the African diaspora. An attempt has also been made to emphasise books by African historians, where the many West African historians at American universities in particular have been prominent contributors.

There is a gradual transition into the next chapter, which deals with *politics, economics and society*. A number of general surveys cover long periods of time and extend into the current period, and books about topical themes often contain excellent historical background chapters. For this reason, the reader is advised to consult both chapters.

## General surveys

Since the publication of *Studying Africa* in 2005, two of the most frequently consulted surveys of African history have appeared in revised editions: John Iliffe's *Africans. A history of a continent* (2007) and Erik Gilbert & Jonathan R. Reynolds' *Africa in world history. From prehistory to the present* (2008). The same applies to the Norwegian historian Jarle Simensen's *Afrikas historie* (2009). An ambitious work of reference with a profusion of entries is *Encyclopedia of Africa* (Gates & Appiah 2010), which also extends into our own times and covers a considerably wide range of topics. With younger readers as its target group, *Africa* (Murray 2007) covers history, culture and geography from the earliest times to the present day. A very useful reference work about women in African history up to the present is *The A to Z of women in Sub-Saharan Africa* (Sheldon 2010). Among the more recent surveys aimed at the university and college market that can also be read to great advantage outside the academic world, in addition to the works mentioned above by Iliffe and Gilbert & Reynolds, there is particular

reason to draw attention to Robert O. Collins & James M. Burns' *A history of Sub-Saharan Africa* (2007). Robert O. Collins has also published *Africa. A short history* (2006), as well as editing a new edition of a three-volume work of historical documents and classic contributions to the discipline: *Problems in African history*, of which Vol. 1 (2005) deals with pre-colonial Africa, Vol. 2 (2007) is dedicated to Africa during the colonial period, and Vol. 3 (2008) treats recent history. Two Swedish historians, Ellen Hillbom and Erik Green, have recently published a highly informative and interesting book which focuses on social structures, production systems and power arenas over a period of 1,000 years in *Afrika. En kontinents ekonomiska och sociala historia* (2010). An introduction to the history of the entire continent written from an explicitly "Afrocentric" perspective, is Molefi Keti Asante's *The history of Africa. The quest for eternal harmony* (2007). In *African history. A very short introduction* (2007) Jon Parker and Richard Rathbone provide – as the title suggests – a short introduction which comprises both historical development and the development of historical research. Even shorter, and better illustrated, is Ben Burt's *Africa in the world. Past and present* (2005), published by the British Museum. An original contribution for a broader readership is *African history for beginners* (Boyd & Wolvek-Pfister 2007), which is in comic strip format.

History after independence is narrated with many details both in a professional historical style by Paul Nugent in *Africa since independence* (2004), and in a more journalistic style by Martin Meredith in *The state of Africa* (2005).

## Historiography

A broad survey of the literature that provides different perspectives on history and history writing (that is, what is known in academic jargon as historiography) in sub-Saharan Africa can be found in Randi Rønning Balsvik's *Afrika i eit historiografisk perspektiv* (2004). A similar structure has been chosen in Knut S. Vikør's *Maghreb – Nordafrika etter 1800* (2007). Donald A. Xerxa conducted interviews with historians of Africa in *Recent themes in the history of Africa and the Atlantic world* (2008). African historical research has also been presented and discussed in *Silences on African history* (Depelchin 2005), *Writing African history* (Philips 2005), *The practice of history in Africa. A history of African historiography* (Alagoa 2006), *Society, state and identity in African history* (Baru Zewde 2008), *Recasting the past* (Peterson & Macola 2009) and *Emergent themes and methods in African history* (Falola & Paddock 2009). A very extensive collection of articles devoted to one of the most productive historians of Africa is *Toyin Falola. The man, the mask, the muse* (Afolabi 2010), whilst the prominent historian Philip D. Curtin reflects over the discipline and his own experiences in *On the fringes of history* (2005). The leading historian Adu Boahen from Ghana has collected many of his influential contributions to African history in *Africa in the twentieth century. The Adu Boahen reader* (Falola 2004).



## Themes

There is no lack of exciting individual themes being described from a longer historical perspective, such as urban growth. Good examples of this are Bill Freund's *The African city. A history* (2007) and *African urban spaces in historical perspective* (Salm & Falola 2009). Migrations, cultural encounters and regional identities are elucidated in a large number of articles in *Movements, borders, and identities in Africa* (Falola & Usman 2010). John Iliffe has also published a detailed study of the place of honour and the concept of honour in African history: *Honour in African history* (2004), whilst food and the production of food is depicted, amongst others, in *Maize and grace. Africa's encounter with a new world crop, 1500–2000* (McCann 2005) and *Stirring the pot. A history of African cuisine* (McCann 2009). The fact that Africa is a continent which, both historically and currently, is exposed to a whole range of diseases is clear not least from two books about the history of malaria: *The making of a tropical disease. A short history of malaria* (Packard 2007) and *Humanity's burden. A global history of malaria* (Webb 2009). How seaports in both Northern and Southern Africa fell victim to plague at the beginning of the last century is described in *Plague ports. The global urban impact of bubonic plague, 1894–1901* (Echenberg 2007). A detailed study of animals, humankind and their environments through the ages is found in *Ivory's ghost. The white gold of history and the fate of elephants* (2009).

A new book providing an excellent overview of African environmental history is Gregory H. Maddox' *Sub-Saharan Africa. An environmental history* (2006), whilst the same perspective is adopted on those parts of Africa that formed part of the British Empire in *Environment and empire* (Beinhart & Hughes 2007). A standard work on African philosophical history has recently appeared in a new edition: Barry Hallen's *A short history of African philosophy* (2009).

Social-historical perspectives have continued to inspire a great deal of new history research in Africa, but, as most of these books are rooted in local communities or individual states, they will be mentioned in the regional sections below (for general surveys, see above). The same applies to detailed studies dealing with environmental history in various areas. Also, a large number of books with a gender perspective will be dealt with in the sections covering specific periods or regions, with the exception of an impressive series with sources and texts written by African women over a long period of time, published under the collective title *Women writing Africa*. The four publications are *The Southern region* (Daymond 2003), *West Africa and Sahel* (Sutherland-Addy & Diaw 2005), *The Eastern region* (Lihamba 2007) and *The Northern region* (Nowaira 2008).

## War and conflicts

Another subject covered in several books is the role played by wars and armies in African history; see for example, *African armies. From honour to infamy* (Edgerton 2006), *Daily lives of civilians in wartime Africa* (Laband 2006), *African*

*military history* (Lamphear 2007), *Fighting for Britain. African soldiers in the Second World War* (Killingray & Plaut 2010) and *Distant drums. The role of colonies in British imperial wars* (Jackson 2010). Africa as a combat zone during the First World War, not least in the former German colonies, is described in detail in *The first world war in Africa* (Strachan 2004), *The forgotten front 1914–1918* (Anderson 2004) and *Tip & run. The untold tragedy of the great war in Africa* (Paice 2008). Relations between Africa and the USA in a historical perspective are explored by Robert A. Waters in *Historical dictionary of United States-Africa relations* (2009), whilst John Kent concentrates on the UN, the Congo and decolonisation in *America, the UN and decolonization* (2010).

## Religion

As demonstrated in the previous edition of *Att studera Afrika*, there is also abundant literature about religions and missionary work through the ages. New additions to our knowledge of the long history of Islam in Africa are *Muslim societies in Africa* (Robinson 2004) and *Africa's Islamic experience* (Mazrui 2009), whilst Christian missionary activity is treated in *Religion versus empire? British protestant missionaries and overseas expansion, 1700–1914* (Porter 2004), *Missions and empire* (Etherington 2005), *White men's god. The extraordinary story of missionaries in Africa* (Ballard 2008) and – from a female perspective – in *The communion of women* (Prevost 2010). The relationship between missionary work and imperialist expansion is described in detail in *Missions, states, and European expansion in Africa* (Koreieh & Njoku 2007). Jewish history over more than 2,000 years is described by Richard Hull in *Jews and Judaism in African history* (2009).

## Historical dictionaries of Africa

In recent years, several new books have also appeared in the series *Historical dictionaries of Africa*, indispensable works of reference for those intending to study a single country. Among the most recent examples are *Ethiopia* (Shinn & Ofcansky 2004), *Ghana* (Owusa-Ansah 2005), *Madagascar* (Allen & Covell 2005), *Morocco* (Park & Boum 2006), *Libya* (St. John 2006), *Gabon* (Gardinier 2006), *Burundi* (Eggers 2006), *Algeria* (Naylor 2007), *Zambia* (Simon 2007), *Mali* (Imperato & Imperato 2008), *Gambia* (Hughes 2008), *Botswana* (Morton et al. 2008), *Mauritania* (Pazzanita 2008), *The Democratic Republic of Congo* (Kisangani & Bobb 2009), *Nigeria* (Falola & Genova 2009) and *Cameroon* (Mbuh 2010).

## Historical periods

### Early history

If we turn to the very earliest history or prehistory, which is primarily the field of archaeologists, four general surveys are hugely recommended: *Forgotten Africa*.

*An introduction to its archaeology* (Connah 2004), *African archaeology* (Phillipson 2005). *African connections. An archaeological perspectives on Africa and the wider world* (Mitchell) and *The first Africans* (Barham & Mitchell 2008). A short and well illustrated presentation is given in *Seven wonders of Ancient Africa* (Woods & Woods 2009), whilst *The A to Z of ancient and medieval Nubia* (Lobban 2010) is a rich work of reference about an early Sudanese civilisation. There is a wealth of specialist literature about the origins of humans (*homo sapiens*) and the migration out of Africa that falls outside this survey, but an excellent place to start is Alice Roberts' popular scientific work *The incredible journey. The story of how we colonised the planet* (2009), which is based on an award-winning BBC TV series.

In the series *Dictionaries of civilizations* there is a separate volume entitled *Africa* (Bargna 2009), with very well illustrated – if somewhat fragmentary – information about early civilisations and cultures. A central work of reference in a new edition is Robert O. Collins' *The A to Z of pre-colonial Africa* (2010). A solid documentation on how Africa and Africans were subject to racist disparagement in the region around the Mediterranean several thousand years ago is given in *The first Ethiopians. The image of Africa and Africans in the early Mediterranean world* (Van Wyk Smith 2009). The period called “the Middle Ages” in European history is outlined in *The African & The Middle Eastern world, 600–1500* (Pouwels 2005), whilst *Rulers, warriors, traders, clerics. The Central Sahara and the North Sea 800–1500* (Haour 2007) is an exciting comparison between two different parts of the world. The great empires in West Africa in the same period are scrutinised in *Empires of medieval Africa. Ghana, Mali, and Songhay* (Conrad 2009). The important trading town and the Islamic seat of learning Timbuktu in today's Mali, which reached its apex in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, has been described in several new books; see, for example, *Timbuktu, The Sahara's fabled city of gold* (De Villiers & Hirtle 2007) and the magnificent volume *The hidden treasures of Timbuktu. Historic city of Islamic Africa* (Hunwick & Boye 2008). The first encounters between Europeans and indigenous peoples around the world are documented from contemporary sources in the *First encounters. Native views on the coming of the Europeans* (Leavitt 2010).

The long-lasting historical links across the Sahara have been concisely described and analysed by Ralph A. Austen in *Trans-Saharan Africa in world history* (2010), while a new standard work on the slave trade across the Sahara is John Wright's *The Trans-Saharan slave trade* (2007). *Bridges across the Sahara* (Ahmida 2009) is a collection of articles on the effects of the trade in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, whilst trading and Islamic networks in the 19<sup>th</sup> century are the subject of *On Trans-Saharan trails* (2009).

## The colonial period

Closer to our own times, an English translation of Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch's book on the 19<sup>th</sup>-century: *Africa and the Africans in the nineteenth century*.

*A turbulent history* (2009) is highly welcome. An account of Africa's history over the past hundred years which is both detailed and rich in perspectives is provided by Richard Reid in *A history of modern Africa. From 1800 to the present* (2009), which will undoubtedly become a standard work. One of the very best introductions to the African colonial period as a whole is to be found in the collection of articles *Dark webs* (Falola 2005). An often-used textbook concentrating on the partition of Africa by colonial powers has appeared in a new edition: *The scramble for Africa* (Chamberlain 2010). A new and exhaustive work on the Zambezi expedition in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the controversy it aroused in Great Britain is *Zambesi. David Livingstone and expeditionary science in Africa* (Dritsas 2010). Exploration, rivalry and imperialism are also vividly described in two new biographies: *Stanley. The impossible life of Africa's great explorer* (Jeal 2007) and *Paths without glory, Richard Francis Burton in Africa* (Newman 2010).

There are also several chapters on Africa in the colonial period in *Kolonialismens sorte bog* (Ferro 2004), whilst the history of the Africans and their descendants around the world is described as part of the British Empire in *Black experience and the empire* (Morgan & Hawkins 2004). Light is shed on Portugal's long colonial dominion in David Birmingham's *Empire in Africa. Angola and its neighbours* (2006). In *How colonialism preempted modernity in Africa* (2010) Olufemi Taiwo provides an innovative work which argues that the colonial period signifies a blockage – and distortion – of modernisation and growth rather than a boost. *Africa and the West. A documentary history* (Worger et al. 2010) a rich collection of documents in two volumes, is indispensable to those who wish to study the relationship between Africa and the Western world from the 15<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. The links between colonialism and the dominant form of “knowledge” about Africa are discussed in *Ordering Africa. Anthropology, European imperialism and the politics of knowledge* (Tilley & Gordon 2007). The use by colonial powers of concepts such as “rights” and “liberty” as a means of legitimising imperialism and foreign rule, mainly based on examples from Nigeria, are incisively analysed by Bonny Ibhawoh in *Imperialism and human rights* (2007). Genocide and war crimes during the colonial period are considered from a comparative perspective both in *Genocide. A comprehensive introduction* (Jones 2009) and *The Oxford handbook of genocide studies* (Bloxham & Moses 2010), whilst a historiographical overview is offered in the article “Folkemord i et komparativt koloniperspektiv: et riss av en fagdebatt” (Eriksen 2009).

Not surprisingly, Africa occupies an important place in the comprehensive literature on the British Empire, as, for example, in several chapters of John Newsinger's *The blood never dried. A people's history of the British empire* (2006), *Settlers and expatriates* (Bickers 2010) and *Migration and empire* (Harper & Constantine 2010). Among recent overviews, *Britannia's empire*, written by the South African Bill Nasson (2004), *The British empire. From sunrise to sunset* (Levine 2007), *The empire project* (Darwin 2009) and *Understanding the British empire* (Hyam 2010) should also be mentioned. Two most interesting studies of cocoa produc-

tion and trade, the British chocolate industry and imperialism are *Chocolate on trial. Slavery, politics and the ethics of business* (Sate 2005) and *Chocolate, women and empire* (Robertson 2009).

A detailed study of the French Empire at the turn of the last century, focusing on the significance of religion in the scramble for Africa, is *An empire divided. Religion, republicanism, and the making of French colonialism, 1880–1914* (2006), whilst *Our friends beneath the sands* (Windrow 2010) is concerned with the role of the French Foreign Legion during the colonial conquest after 1870. The period between the two world wars is the theme both in *The French empire between the wars. Politics and society* (Thomas 2005) in *The French imperial nation-state* (Wilder 2005). The French empire under the Vichy regime during the Second World War is covered thoroughly by Ruth Ginio in *French colonialism unmasked. The Vichy years in French West Africa* (2008). A less familiar scandal of violence from the French conquest of empire in West Africa at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century has now been brought to light in Bertrand Taithe's *The killer trail. A colonial scandal in the heart of Africa* (2009).

Even if the history of German colonialism was cut short by the treaties following its defeat in the First World War, it has been the object of extensive research in recent years. Most of the literature is, of course, in German, but among books available in English we find *The devil's handwriting* (Steinmetz 2007), *Germany's colonial past* (Ames et al. 2005), *The German colonial experience* (Knoll 2010) and *German colonialism* (Langbehn 2010). In all these books Namibia occupies a central position. (For literature dealing specifically with the German genocide in Namibia at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, see the section on Southern Africa below.) Italy's colonialism has also been considered, with special emphasis on Ethiopia, Eritrea and Libya, in the collection of articles *Italian colonialism* (Ben-Ghiat & Fuller 2005).

## Decolonisation

The end of colonialism in Africa is described in several works which more generally cover the process of decolonisation, of which two central works are *The Routledge companion to decolonization* (Rothermund 2006) and *Decolonization and its impact. A comparative approach to the end of the colonial empires* (Shipway 2007). Whilst most historical accounts of decolonisation devote considerable attention to the international power game and changes in relative global power, such as in *Crisis of empire. Decolonization and Europe's imperial states, 1918–1975* (Thomas et al. 2008), Jonathan Derrick in *Africa's 'agitators'. Militant anti-colonialism in Africa and the West, 1918–1939* (2008) emphasises the role played by African activists even in the interwar period. In *Ending British rule in Africa* (2009) Carol Polsgrove tells the story of a group of Africans and intellectuals of African origin from the Caribbean who, through their activities in London at the end of the Second World War, thought the unthinkable: the end of British colonial rule.



## African history in a global perspective

### Slavery

African history can obviously not be written or understood without taking the continent's links with other continents into consideration, and, if we think of the history of *Africans*, should also be focused on the seminal ways in which Africans and their descendants have left their mark on history far beyond their own continent. This perspective characterises several of the general surveys that are mentioned above (not least Mitchell 2005 and Gilbert & Reynolds 2008). The Atlantic slave trade is, of course, the most obvious example of African integration into the capitalist world system and is explored in a rich body of literature. A standard work in a new edition is *The Atlantic slave trade* (Herbert Klein 2010), while other good introductions are to be found in *Captives as commodities. The Atlantic slave trade* (Lindsay 2008) and *The atlas of slave trade* (Walvin 2005). Africa also claims considerable space in Swedish historian Dick Harrison's impressive and highly readable three-volume work *Slaveri. En världshistoria om ofrihet* (2010). Based on an updated database, a number of new articles about the slave trade have been collected in *Extending the frontiers* (Eltis & Richardson 2008), whilst the slave trade across both across the Atlantic and the Sahara from areas under Islamic influence in West and Central Africa is discussed in Paul E. Lovejoy's *Slaves at the frontiers of Islam* (2004). The British slave trade based on West Africa is studied in *The grand slave emporium. Cape Coast castle and the British slave trade* (St. Clair 2007) and *Reconfiguring slavery. West African trajectories* (Rossi 2009), whilst *Ouidah: The social history of a West African port, 1727–1829* (Law 2005) is a detailed study of a major slave port and the critical role played by African traders. How a sensitive and controversial theme such as slavery and the slave trade is regarded in today's Ghana (including by Afro-Americans and tourists) is discussed in *Routes of remembrance. Refashioning the slave trade in Ghana* (Holsey 2008). The slave trade both across the Atlantic and Indian Oceans is considered in several chapters in *Many middle passages. Forced migration and the making of the modern world* (Christopher et al. 2007).

The slave trade is seen from an African perspective in Anne C. Bailey's *African voices of the Atlantic slave trade* (2005), whilst the slaves' own resistance is covered in a comparative perspective in *Fighting the slave trade. West African strategies* (Diouf 2004), *Slave revolts* (Postma 2008) and *Slavery and resistance in Africa and Asia. Bonds of resistance* (Alpers et al. 2009). The most recent research into slavery internally in Africa is brought together in *African systems of slavery* (Spaulding & Besnick 2010). In the struggle for abolition of the slave trade and slavery in the British colonies towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Olaudah Equiano played a central role. This former slave, who lived in Great Britain for many years, is also the writer of the highly influential autobiography: *The interesting narrative of the life of Olaudah Equiano, Gustavus Vassa, the African* (new ed. 2003). *Equiano the African* (Carretta 2005) is a historical biography, whilst



*Olaudah Equiano & the Igbo world* (Koreih 2009) is an exciting collection of articles focusing on his West African roots. The importance of Africans in the struggle for abolition of the slave trade and slavery is covered in *Abolitionism, and imperialism in Britain, Africa and the Atlantic* (Peterson 2010).

## The Atlantic

“Atlantic history” has in recent years taken great leap forward as a separate field of research, where Africa is put into contexts with other areas bordering the same ocean. A general survey is given by Thomas Benjamin in *The Atlantic world. Europeans, Africans, Indians and their shared history, 1400–1900* (2009) and by Douglas Egerton et al. in *The Atlantic world. A history, 1400–1888* (2007), whilst five good collections of articles including chapters with an African perspective are *Enslaving connections* (Curto & Lovejoy 2004), *Africa and the Americas. Interconnections during the slave trade* (Curto & Souloudre –La France 2005), *The Atlantic world 1450–2000* (Falola and Robert 2008), *The changing worlds of Atlantic Africa* (Childs & Falola 2009) and *Atlantic history. A critical appraisal* (Green & Morgan 2009). A more recent global history in Norwegian also has an Atlantic perspective and devotes a separate chapter to Africa : *Globalhistorie 1750–1914. En sammenvevd og delt verden* (Eriksen 2010). The history of transport by slave ship across the Atlantic is described by Stephanie Smallwood in *Saltwater slavery. A middle passage from Africa to American diaspora* (2007), by Marcus Rediker in *The slave ship* (2007) and by Toyin Falola & Manda B. Warnock in *Encyclopedia of the middle passage* (2007).

## The Indian Ocean

As a large part of Africa also borders the Indian Ocean, there is much information about African history to be obtained in surveys such as *The Indian Ocean* (Pearson 2003), *Indian Ocean in world history* (Kearney 2004) and *A hundred horizons. The Indian Ocean in the age of global empire* (Bose 2008). The fact that it is impossible to write the history of eastern and southern Africa without emphasising relations with India during the early colonial period is an important point made by Thomas R. Metcalf in *Imperial connections* (2007). Edward A. Alpers has collected his own studies on the same subject in *East Africa and the Indian Ocean* (2009), while *Cross currents and community networks. The history of the Indian Ocean world* (Ray & Alpers 2007) is a collection of a wide range of articles. Valuable additions to this literature are also John Halwey’s *India in Africa. Africa in India. Indian Ocean cosmopolitanism* (2008) and a study of the significance of Hinduism as a result of Indian emigration to Africa within the framework of the British Empire: *New homelands. Hindu communities in Mauritius, Guyana, Trinidad, South Africa, Fiji and East Africa* (Younger 2009). A new work about maritime trading links around the Indian Ocean, with Zanzibar as its main focus, is Abdul Sheriff’s *Dhow cultures of the Indian Ocean. Cosmopolitanism, commerce and Islam* (2010).

## Diaspora

The links between Africa and the history of peoples of African descent around the world – the African *diaspora* – is also an independent field of research that is rapidly expanding. The latest surveys have been provided by Patrick Manning: *The African diaspora. A history through culture* (2009) and Frederick Knight: *Working the diaspora. The impact of African labor on the Anglo-American world, 1650–1850* (2010), whilst M. A. Gomez has written *Reversing sails. A history of the African diaspora* (2005) as well as edited *Diasporic Africa. A reader* (2006). Another perspective on the diaspora is given in *Slavery, Islam and diaspora* (Mirzai 2009). As regards other African contributions to world history, where the focus is on agricultural production and the dissemination of plant crops, a great deal of material is to be found both in *Deep roots. Rice farmers in West Africa and the African diaspora* (Fields-Black 2008) and *In the shadow of slavery. Africa's botanic legacy in the Atlantic world* (Carney 2009). The history of Africans in Europe from ancient times right up to our own times is told in the important two-volume work *Africans in Europe* (2009), whilst Africans in Europe during the Renaissance forms the theme of *Black Africans in renaissance Europe* (Earle & Lowe 2005). The lives of African slaves in the “New World” is told in detail in *The slavery reader* (Heuman & Walvin 2003), *Inhuman bondage. The rise and fall of slavery in the new world* (Davis 2006) and *African slavery in Latin America and the Caribbean* (Klein & Vinson 2007). Two areas that supplied a great number of slaves are described in detail, with an emphasis on slavery, resistance, culture and relations to their homeland, in *The Yoruba diaspora in the Atlantic world* (Falola & Childs 2004) and *The Akan diaspora in the Americas* (Konadu (2010)). A comprehensive collection of articles treating the same theme from a gender perspective is *Gendering the African diaspora. Women, culture, and historical change in the Caribbean and Nigerian hinterland* (Byfield et al. 2010). A wealth of new information about the role of Africans in Asia is brought together in *Uncovering the history of Africans in Asia* (Jayasuriya & Anginit 2008).

## Regions and individual countries

### North Africa

The history of the northern part of the African continent has recently been covered by Phillip Naylor in an excellent survey; *North Africa. A history from the antiquity to the present* (2009). A good overview in a brief format is given by Barnaby Rogerson in *A traveller's history of North Africa* (2008), whilst Egypt and other parts of North Africa are included in a new edition of the standard work *A concise history of the Middle East* (Goldschmidt & Davidson 2006). Economic history is comprehensively treated in Charles Issawi's *An economic history of the Middle East and North Africa* (2005), whilst Ruth M. Beitler and Angelica R. Martinez have collected studies with a women's perspective in

*Women's roles in the Middle East and North Africa* (2010). Eugene Rogan's *The Arabs. A history* (2009) is a well-written survey which also covers Egypt and other parts of North Africa. A perspective on social movements and popular resistance during the 15<sup>th</sup> century and onwards is provided in *Subaltern protest. History from below in the Middle East and North Africa* (Cronin 2007). A new historical reference work is *Cities of the Middle East and North Africa* (Dumper & Stanley 2006).

There is no lack of books on the history of Egypt; some recent additions are *The history of Egypt* (Perry 2004), *A history of Egypt. From the Arab conquest to the present* (Al-Sayyid Marsot 2007), *A modern history of Egypt* (Thompson 2008) and *A brief history of Egypt* (Goldschmidt 2008). An exciting portrait of a prominent 19<sup>th</sup> century statesman regarded as "the father of modern Egypt" is *Mehmet Ali* (Fahmy 2008). *Re-envisioning Egypt, 1919–1952* (Goldschmidt et al. 2005) shows how the upheavals in 1952 had their roots in a long history of anti-colonial resistance. Cathlyn Mariscotti's *Gender and class in the Egyptian women's movement, 1925–1939* (2008) is a highly interesting study from the interwar years, whilst gender history from a comparative viewpoint is provided in Beth Baron's *Egypt as a woman. Nationalism, gender and politics* (2007). The history of historical research in Egypt in the 20<sup>th</sup> century is told in *Gatekeepers of the Arab past* (Di-Capua 2009). Three recent books, moreover, deal with the first attack by a western country in North Africa in modern times – Napoleon's attempts at conquest in 1798, *Napoleon's Egypt. Invading the Middle East* (Cole 2007), *Mirage. Napoleon's scientists and the unveiling of Egypt* (Burleigh 2007) and *Napoleon in Egypt* (Strathern 2007). Both *Khartoum. The ultimate imperial adventure* (Asher 2009) and *Three empires on the Nile. The Victorian Jihad, 1868–1899* (Green 2007) are concerned with the imperialist struggle for control over the Nile and Sudan.

Among books dealing with other countries in the region are *Morocco. From empire to independence* (Pennell 2009) and *A history of modern Tunisia* (Perkins 2004). Algeria's history is also dealt with in several new books, such as *Modern Algeria. The origins and development of a nation* (Ruedy 2005) and *History and the culture of nationalism in Algeria* (McDougal 2008), whilst the Algerian Berber people are the theme of an informative reference work: *A to Z of the Berbers (Imazighen)* (2009). The point that conflicts of mass violence in Algeria in the 1990s have to be understood against the background of the colonial period is forcefully made in *Violent modernity. France in Algeria* (Hannoum 2010).

Libya's history has in recent years been enriched with several surveys, such as *Libya. From colony to independence* (St. John 2008), *A history of modern Libya* (Vandewalle 2006, *The making of modern Libya* (Ahmida 2009), *A history of Libya* (Wright 2010), for example, and – more specifically concerned with the contemporary period – *The origins of the Libyan nation* (Baldinetti 2010). Drawing on materials from several centuries, *Forgotten voices* (Ahmida 2009) is concerned with the history of those who most often are overlooked.

## West Africa

For those interested in the history of West Africa, an excellent place to start is *Themes in West African history* (Akyeampong 2006), which is primarily written by West African historians. Our understanding of the role of Islam in West African history has also been enriched by *West-Africa, Islam and the Arab world* (Hunwick 2007). *Origins of African political thinking* (July 2004) is a good introduction to African political thinking with the 18<sup>th</sup> century in West Africa as its point of departure. Also highly recommended in this regard are *Telling stories, making histories. Women, words, and Islam in nineteenth-century Hausaland and the Sokoto* (Bivins 2007) and *Fighting the greater Jihad. Amadu Baba and the founding of the Muridiyya of Senegal, 1853–1913* (Babou 2007). A historical perspective on US relations with West Africa is provided in *The United States and West Africa* (Jallo & Falola 2008). A comparative perspective on West African urbanisation is adopted in *A history of urban planning in two West African capitals* (Bigon 2009).

The large body of literature concerned with Nigeria has recently been enriched by Toyin Falola and Matthew M. Heaton in *A history of Nigeria* (2008), whilst the former has also documented the violent nature of colonial occupation in *Colonialism and violence in Nigeria* (2009). Nigeria's pre-colonial and colonial history is also the theme of two Festschrifts to Toyin Falola: *Precolonial Nigeria* (Ogundiran 2005) and *The foundations of Nigeria* (Oyebade 2004). An innovative work showing the active participation of many Africans in disseminating "Western civilisation" in Nigeria is Andrew E. Barnes' *Making headway. The introduction of Western civilization in colonial Northern Nigeria* (2009), whilst Olufemi Vaughan sheds new light on an important historical subject in *Nigerian chiefs. Traditional power in modern politics, 1890s–1990s* (2006). An important contribution to the history of both slavery and urbanisation is Kristin Mann's *Slavery and the birth of an African city. Lagos 1760–1900* (2007), whilst the slow development of slavery in Nigeria is the theme of E. A. Afigbo's *The abolition of the slave trade in Southeastern Nigeria, 1885–1959* (2006). The history of the Igbo people in Nigeria is treated in depth in *Igbo history and society. The essays of Adiele Afigbo* (Falola 2006) and *Constructions of belonging. Igbo community and the Nigerian state in the twentieth century* (Harneit-Sivers 2006). *Colonial meltdown. Northern Nigeria in the great depression* (Ochuni 2009) is one of the few examples of a detailed study of the effects of the economic crisis in Africa in the interwar years, whilst economic developments over the final decades before independence are explored in great details in *Economic reforms and modernization in Nigeria, 1945–1965* (Falola 2004). Economic and social change in rural areas in a long-term perspective form the theme of *The land has changed. History, society and gender in colonial Eastern Nigeria* (Koreih 2010), and the history of urbanisation is at the centre of *Nigeria's urban history* (Tijani 2006). A gender perspective on Nigerian history is offered in *Igbo women and economic transformation in Southeastern Nigeria, 1900–1960* (Chuku 2005) and in the rich

collection of articles *Yoruba women, work, and social change* (McIntosh 2009), whilst an account of the Yoruba people – who number approximately 40 million in Africa and in the diaspora – is given in *A history of the Yoruba people* (Akintoye 2010). A number of studies of Nigerian history have been collected in *Nigerian history, politics and affairs. The collected essays of Adiele Afigbo* (Falola 2005).

Walter Rodney's classic *A history of the Upper Guinea Coast, 1545 to 1800* (2009) is now available in a new edition, whilst G. Ugo Nwokeji is mainly concerned with the role played by the merchant class in the organisation of the slave trade in the Bight of Biafra in *The slave trade and culture in the Bight of Biafra* (2010). Gambia's history over almost 200 years is presented in *A political history of Gambia* (Hughes & Perfect 2008). The significance of colonialism for food, occupation and agriculture is discussed in detail in *A workman is worthy of his meat. Food and colonialism in the Gabon estuary* (2009). With *Labour, land and capital in Ghana. From slavery to free labour in Asante, 1807–1956* (2005) Gareth Austin has summarised a lifetime of research on the transition from slavery and the economic history of an important area.

Kwame Nkrumah's historical significance is elucidated in David Rooney's *Kwame Nkrumah. Vision and tragedy* (2007) and in a new edition of Basil Davidson's classic *The black star* (2007). A valuable collection of articles focusing on Ghana, with a comparative view of other parts of West Africa is *The 'traditional' and the 'modern' in West African (Ghanaian) history* (Hernæs 2005). *Making men in Ghana* (Miescher 2006) is an original contribution to Ghanaian history told through the life stories of eight men.

An original study of the popular struggle for independence is Elizabeth Schmidt's *Mobilizing the masses. Gender, ethnicity, and classes in the national movement in Guinea, 1939–1958* (2005), whilst her *Cold war and decolonization in Guinea, 1946–1958* (Schmidt 2007) looks at Guinea from an international perspective. The Guinean experience is also discussed by Jay Straker in *Youth, nationalism, and the Guinean revolution* (2009). How globalisation has affected Africa over the long term has been shown in a new edition of Donald R. Wright's excellent *The world and a very small place in Africa. A history of globalization in Niumi, the Gambia* (2010). Relations between the USA and West Africa are the theme of *The United States and West Africa* (Jallo & Falola 2008), whilst the close links between the USA and Liberia during the Cold War are covered by D. Elwood Dunn in *Liberia and the United States during the cold war* (2009).

### Central and East Africa (including Sudan)

A good place to start for those who want a concise overview of the history of East Africa is the new edition of Robert Maxon's *East Africa. An introductory history* (2009). Pre-colonial history has received several valuable contributions, such as *Carriers of cultures. Labor on the road in the nineteenth-century East Africa* (Rockel 2006), *Slavery on the Great Lakes in East Africa* (Medard & Doyle 2007) and *War in pre-colonial Eastern Africa. The politics & meaning of state-level con-*



*flicts in the nineteenth century* (Reid 2007). Christine Saidi has provided a most welcome gender perspective on early history in *Women's authority and society in early East-Central Africa* (2010).

*The history of Ethiopia* (Adejumobi 2007) covers a long period of time in a pedagogic manner, whilst the Ethiopian victory over Italy in 1895 receives a detailed depiction in *The battle of Adwa. Reflections on Ethiopia's historic victory against European colonialism* (Milkias & Getachew Metefaria 2005). *The dying lion. Feudalism and modernization in Ethiopia* (Gilkes 2007) takes as its subject the background to the fall of the Emperor in 1974. The struggle against the subsequent military dictatorship is presented in a detailed and critical way in *A political history of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (1975–1991)* (Aregawi Berhe 2009), whilst Getachew Metafaria describes the changing relationships of the USA and Ethiopia in *Ethiopia and the United States. History, diplomacy, and analysis* (2009).

The recent history of Sudan is presented in an overview by Robert O. Collins in *A history of modern Sudan* (2008), whilst *The Nubian past* (Edwards 2004) builds on archaeological knowledge to tell the history of the area over 2,000 years, and cultural diversity is illustrated by *Culture and customs of Sudan* (Essien & Falola 2008). A new standard work in its field is R. S. O'Fahey's *The Darfur sultanate. A history* (2008), whilst Sara Beswick follows the history of the Dinka people all the way back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century in *Sudan's blood memory. The legacy of war, ethnicity, and slavery in South Sudan* (2004). The campaign conducted by the colonial authorities against female circumcision (or genital mutilation) is described from similar perspectives in *Civilizing women. British crusades in colonial Sudan* (Boddy 2007), whilst the same theme is elucidated in a more general way in *Female circumcision and the politics of knowledge* (Nnaemeka 2005).

The history of Tanzania is constantly being enriched with new literature. Among several examples of history written for an environmental and local perspectives are *Highland sanctuary. Environmental history in Tanzania's Usambara mountains* (Conte 2004), *Wielding the ax. State forestry and social conflict in Tanzania, 1820–2000* (Sunseri 2009) and *Imagining Serengeti. A history of landscape memory in Tanzania from the earliest times to the present* (Shetler (2007)). Two recent books also shed new light on the complex history of Dar es Salaam: *Histories from an emerging African metropolis* (Brennan et al. 2007) and *African underclass. Urbanisation, crime & colonial order in Dar es Salaam, 1919–61* (Burton 2005). Other historical studies, focusing on the relationship between local communities and state, are *In search of a nation. Histories of authority and dissidence in Tanzania* (Maddox & Giblin 2005), *A history of the excluded. Making family a refuge from state in twentieth-century Tanzania* (2005) and *Practicing history in Central Tanzania. Writing, memory and performance* (Maddox & Kongola 2005). In *Emancipation without abolition in German East Africa, c. 1884–1914* (2008) Jan-Georg Deutsch describes the 19<sup>th</sup>-century slave trade and the lives of slaves, as well as resistance during German colonial rule. Perhaps the most widespread



revolt in African colonial history is explored through a collection of case-studies in *Maji-Maji. Lifting the fog of war* (Giblin & Monson 2010), whilst the brutal warfare of the then German colonial power and the resistance of the Hehe people towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century is described in detail in “*To devour the land of Mkwawa*”, *Colonial violence and the German-Hehe war in East Africa, c. 1884–1914* (Pizzo 2010). Zanzibar’s central position both before and during the colonial era is the theme of Erik Gilbert’s *Dhows & the colonial economy of Zanzibar 1860–1970* (2004). An interesting study of international politics and development aid deals with the Chinese-built railway between Zambia and Tanzania: *Africa’s freedom railway* (Monson 2009). The area of the Ugandan kingdom of Bunyoro is described from an environmental-historical perspective from the end of the pre-colonial period to the end of the 1950s in *Crisis & decline. Population & environment in Western Uganda 1860–1955* (Doyle 2006), whilst *Cultivating success in Uganda. Kigezi farmers & colonial policies* (Carswell 2007) tells how a district in Uganda resisted specialisation of production for export, and instead retained a more balanced, environmentally friendly and sustainable type of agriculture. A corrective to notions about Uganda as an idyll of “milk and honey” as regards environmental and medical history during the colonial period is provided by the Finnish historian Jan Kuhanen in *Poverty, health and reproduction in early colonial Uganda* (2005), whilst a gender perspective on women’s work in Uganda is presented in *Women, work and domestic virtue in Uganda 1900–2003* (Kyoumuhende & McIntosh 2006).

The position of women in Kenya and their struggle to achieve better conditions is described and analysed in *African womanhood in colonial Kenya, 1900–50* (Kano 2005), *Worries of the heart. Widows, family, and community in Kenya* (Mutongi 2007) and *Land, food, freedom. Struggles for the gendered commons in Kenya, 1870–2007* (Brownhill 2009). The links between colonialism and racism are comprehensively treated in *Race and empire. Eugenics in colonial Kenya* (Campbell 2007). A very controversial theme in historical research is the “Mau-Mau” uprising in Kenya in the 1950s, which form the focus of a number of new books. *Britain’s Gulag. The brutal end of empire in Kenya* (Elkins 2005) and *Histories of the hanged. Britain’s dirty war in Kenya and the end of empire* (Anderson 2005) are mostly devoted to British brutality, whilst both S. M. Shamsul Alam’s *Rethinking the Mau Mau in colonial Kenya* (2007) and Daniel Branch’s *Defeating Mau Mau, creating Kenya* (2010) discuss the uprising in its complexity, and elucidate the various attitudes held within the Kikuyu population. The social background of the uprising is explored in *The social context of the Mau Mau movement in Kenya* (Macharia & Kanyua 2006), whilst *Kenya, the Kikuyu and Mau Mau* (Smith 2005) clearly demonstrates that there is still historical research that pursues the myths and arguments of the colonial powers. The argument that the struggle of the British to keep control in Kenya also had a Cold War bias is made in *Britain, Kenya and the cold war. Imperial defence, colonial security, and decolonization* (Percox 2004). Nguigi wa Thiong’o, the well-known writer of fiction, derives a great deal of his material

from the days of the war in the 1950s in his fascinating memories *Dreams in a time of war. A childhood memoir* (2010). The relationship between the colonial masters, the local population and the natural environment is the theme of *Black poachers, white hunters. A social history of hunting in colonial Kenya* (2005), whilst a perspective of gender and legal history, the so-called “double patriarchy”, that is to say the combination of local male power and the intervention of the colonial power, is adopted in *Girl cases. Marriage and colonialism in Gusiiland, Kenya 1890–1970* (Brett & Shadle 2006). Norwegians in Kenya both before and during the 1950s are given their history in Kristin Alsaker Kjerland’s *Nordmenn i det koloniale Kenya* (2010). The same writer is also co-editor of a collection of studies with a wider aim: *Kolonitid. Nordmenn på eventyr and big business i Afrika and Stillehavet* (2009).

A very exciting study of agriculture, food and power is to be found in the Malawian historian Elias C. Mandala’s *The end of Chidyerano. A history of food and everyday life in Malawi, 1860–2004* (2006), whilst the basis of political resistance to both colonial rule and the authoritarian regime of Hastings Banda is discussed in Joey Powers’ *Political culture and nationalism in Malawi* (2010). A concise introduction to the history of Madagascar from the first settlements in the fifth century to the present day is given in *Madagascar. A short history* (Randriania & Ellis 2009), whilst its economic history from 1750 up to colonisation is covered by *An economic history of imperial Madagascar 1750–1895* (Campbell 2008).

Whereas several earlier books have documented the brutality of the colonisation of the Congo, this picture is now being complemented by a detailed study of forced labour and the plundering of natural resources under the direction of the British company of Lord Leverhulme in the period right up to the Second World War: *Lord Leverhulme’s ghosts. Colonial exploitation in the Congo* (Marchal 2008). The history of the role of Norwegians under King Leopold’s reign of terror in the Congo is told in *Nordmenn i Kongo* (Godøy 2010). Jan Vansina has elucidated pre-colonial social conditions in central Africa in a number of books, and has followed these up with a series of new studies and new editions: *How societies are born. Governance in West Central Africa before 1600* (Vansina 2004), *Antecedents to modern Rwanda. The Nyiginya kingdom* (Vansina 2004), *Paths in the rainforest* (Vansina 2006) and *Being Kuba. The Kuba experience in rural Congo 1880–1960* (Vansina 2010). Another pioneer of pre-colonial history, David Newbury, has collected a number of his influential studies in *The land before the mist. Essays on identity and authority in precolonial Congo and Rwanda* (Newbury 2009).

## Southern Africa

### South Africa

South Africa is undoubtedly the African country that is best provided with excellent and up-to-date historical surveys, new research and perceptive histori-

cal discussions. A number of contributions from recent years range from short introductory texts to more substantial works, all of high professional quality, at the same time as there are a number of monographs available which provide a wealth of perspectives. Three good places to gain an overview are *A concise history of South Africa* (Ross 2008), *South Africa in world history* (Berger 2009) and – briefest of all – *Dinosaurs, diamonds and democracy, A short, short history of South Africa* (Wilson 2009). A more comprehensive and well illustrated work of history, with a large number of South African writers as contributors, is *New history of South Africa* (Giliomee & Mbenga 2009), whilst *The Cambridge history of South Africa* most likely will become the standard academic text for many years to come. The first of two volumes edited by Carolyn Hamilton et al. (2010) has appeared so far, covering the period from earliest times to 1885.. A more journalistic account is offered by R. W. Johnson in *South Africa. The first man, the last nation* (2004), whilst Charles H. Feinstein provides an overview of the economic history of the area in *An economic history of South Africa* (2004). The rise and fall of the apartheid system is the subject of two recent historical studies: *The rise, fall, and legacy of apartheid* (Louw 2004) and *The rise and fall of apartheid* (Welsh 2009). The military history of the area from the first colonial conquest to the apartheid period and on into the contemporary period is the subject of Timothy Stapleton's *A military history of South Africa* (2010). A regional perspective on the resistance to colonisation in South Africa, Swaziland, Zimbabwe and Namibia is given in *Grappling with the beast. Indigenous Southern African responses to colonialism, 1840–1930* (Limb 2010), whilst the impact of slavery and its formal abolition is covered by *Slavery, emancipation and colonial rule in South Africa* (Dooling 2008). Different perspectives on South Africa history writing and the “collective memory” are given in *Liberals, Marxists and nationalists. Competing interpretations of South African history* (Lipton 2007) and *History making and present day politics. The meaning of collective memory in South Africa* (Stolten 2007).

The period often referred to as “modern history” – that is, from the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century – is concisely covered in a new edition of Nigel Worden's *The making of modern South Africa* (2007), whilst Arab MacKinnon deals with the same period, but with a focus on cultural and political conditions, in *The making of South Africa* (2004). A well-written and journalistic account focusing on the important period around the turn of the last century is Martin Meredith's *Diamonds, gold and war. The making of South Africa* (2007). A thorough and detailed study in environmental history from the Transkei is *Nature and colonial change* (Tripp 2006), whilst *Representing Africa. Landscape, exploration and empire in Southern Africa, 1780–1870* (McAler 2009) deals with the ways in which British artists, scientists and travellers presented southern Africa. A gender perspective on migration and settlements during apartheid is given in *African women under apartheid* (Lee 2009), whilst the women's struggle in several different periods is described in *Women in South African history* (Gasa 2007). The long and bitter

struggle between the Xhosa-speaking local population and European colonisers is dealt with in great detail by Richard Price in *Making empire. Colonial encounters and the creation of imperial rule in the nineteenth-century Africa* (2008). An exciting attempt to bring out African intellectual personalities in the form of five portraits is *African intellectuals in 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century South Africa* (Ndletyane 2007). Earlier comparative studies of the USA and South Africa have now been supplemented by *Cultures of violence. Lynching and racial killing in South Africa and the United States* (Evans 2009).

That the significance of the Zulu leader Shaka in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century is a highly contentious subject in South African history is eminently shown by Dan Wylie in his *Myths of iron. Shaka in history* (2006), whilst *Zulu. The heroism and tragedy of the Zulu war of 1879* (2004) and *Crossing the buffalo* (Greaves 2009) deal with the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879. The widespread uprising in 1906 which ended the period of colonial conquest in South African history is the theme of Jeff Guy's *Remembering the rebellion. The Zulu uprising of 1906* (2006), whilst *Zulu identities. Being Zulu, past and present* (Carton et al. 2008) discusses what it means "to be a Zulu" both in the past and at the present time. Two major wars have each been given a detailed reference work: *Historical dictionary of the Anglo-Boer war* (Pretorius 2009) and *Historical dictionary of the Zulu wars* (Laband 2009). Several books also direct attention to the story of the Khoikhoi woman Sara Baartman, who became famous as "the Hottentot Venus", and was sent to London as a display exhibit in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century; see, for example, *African queen. The real story of Hottentot Venus* (Holmes 2005) and, in much greater detail as regards her story in her home country, *Sara Baartman and the Hottentot Venus* (Crais & Scully 2009). Indian immigration in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century is dealt with in *Inside Indian indenture. A South African story 1860–1914* (Desai & Vahed 2010). Closer to our own times, several books have appeared discussing the apartheid system, the struggle for freedom, and the fall of apartheid, such as Alex Thomson's *South African politics since 1948* (2008) and Jack Spence & David Welsh's *Ending apartheid* (2010).

Very useful is Volume 6 of the unparalleled collection of documents *From protest to challenge*, titled *Challenge and victory 1980–1990* (Gerhart & Glaser 2009). The struggle for freedom against colonialism and apartheid in southern Africa also had a Cold War dimension, something clearly shown in Vladimir Shubin's *The hot 'cold war'. The USSR in Southern Africa* (2008a), *Cold war in Southern Africa* (Onslow 2009) and *U.S. foreign policy towards apartheid South Africa* (Thomson 2009). Raymond Suttner draws on his own experiences in *The ANC underground in South Africa, 1950–1976* (2009), whilst a new edition of Vladimir Shubin's *ANC. A view from Moscow* (2008b) has appeared.

### Other countries in southern Africa

There are fewer new surveys of other areas of southern Africa. An important exception is *Becoming Zimbabwe* (Raftopoulos & Mlambo 2009), in which a

number of Zimbabwean historians and social scientists explore the main features of the country's history from the pre-colonial period to 2008. A good detailed study is *Invisible hands. Child labor and the state in colonial Zimbabwe* (Grier 2006), whilst the incendiary question of power and land distribution is dealt with by Jocelyn Alexander in *The unsettled land. State-making & the politics of land in Zimbabwe, 1893–2003* (2006). Another controversial issue, from as far back as the pre-colonial period and through changing regimes, is control over the River Zambezi separating Zambia and Zimbabwe, which is discussed in *Crossing the Zambezi* (McGregor 2009). A perspective on the early social history of Harare is provided in *African urban experiences in colonial Zimbabwe* (Yoshikuni 2007)), whilst Bulawayo's history between 1893 and 1960 is covered in *Bulawayo burning* (Ranger 2010).

Important aspects of Zambia's political history from the colonial period onward is provided by Bizeck J. Phiri in *A political history of Zambia* (2005), whilst a perceptive study of mining, foreign big business and the colonial state is *Copper empire* (Butler 2007). For the first time, Kenneth Kaunda's rival as the "father" of the Zambian nation has been given a biography: *Liberal nationalism in Central Africa. A biography of Harry Mwaanga Mkumbula* (Macolo 2010), whilst a perspective from politics and environmental history is provided on the important inland fisheries of Zambia and Congo in *Nachituti's gift. Economy, society, and environment in Central Africa* (Gordon 2006). *Butterflies & barbarians. Swiss missionaries & systems of knowledge in South-East Africa* (Harris 2007) discusses the tension between two contrasting knowledge systems in Mozambique, whilst the growth of local and regional identities in Mozambique and Zimbabwe is the theme of Elizabeth MacGonagle's *Crafting identities in Zimbabwe and Mozambique* (2007). German colonial policy and genocide in Namibia in the early 20<sup>th</sup>-century is discussed within a general framework of global and comparative genocide studies, in *Det tjuende århundrets første folkemord. Namibia 1903–1908* (Eriksen 2007), *Genocide in German South-West Africa* (Zimmerer & Zeller 2008) and *The Kaiser's holocaust. Germany's forgotten genocide and the colonial roots of Nazism* (Olusoga & Erichsen 2010). Two important books at the intersection between local history and environmental history have been written by Emmanuel Kreike: *Re-creating Eden. Land use, environment, and society in Southern Angola and Northern Namibia* (2004) and *Deforestation and reforestation in Namibia. The global and local contradictions* (2010). The history of the San people (previously often called "Bushmen") is told by Elizabeth Marshall Thomas in *The old way. A story of the first people* (2006). Colonisation and resistance in Lesotho has been given a thorough presentation by Elizabeth Eldredge in *Power in colonial Africa. Lesotho 1870–1960* (2007), whilst the growth of Botswana as a modern nation state has been described, placing Seretse Khama at the centre, in *Colour bar. The triumph of Seretse Khama and his nation* (Williams 2006). The first Botswanan president is also one of the three prominent African statesman whose portraits are given in *We shall not fail. Values in the na-*



*tional leadership of Seretse Khama, Nelson Mandela and Julius Nyerere* (Mungazi (2005).

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